

TJAGSA Practice Note

Faculty, The Judge Advocate General's School

From the Army Review Boards Agency

Enlisted Retirement Grade Determinations

The Army Grade Determination Review Board (AGDRB) reviews applications from warrant officer and enlisted retirees who retired at a grade lower than the highest grade served. When these retirees' total of creditable service years plus time on the retired list reaches thirty years, they are eligible to apply for retirement at the higher-grade level. For example, a person who retired with twenty-one years and five months creditable service must be on the retired list for eight years and seven months before becoming eligible to apply. A common misconception is that these thirty-year grade determination reviews are accomplished automatically. These reviews are not automatic, individuals must apply to initiate review.

If the individual was a member of the regular Army, or Reserve Component who at the time of retirement served on active duty (or in the case of members of the National Guard, was on full-time National Guard duty), then *Army Regulation 15-80*¹ authorizes the AGDRB to make final determinations on the highest grade satisfactorily served on active duty. To apply, the individual should complete Department of Defense Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record.² The form should be mailed to the Army Review Boards Agency Support

Division, ATTN: SFMR-RBR-SL, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200. That division will attach the applicant's military records to the request and forward the case to the Army Review Boards Agency in Arlington, Virginia. There, the AGDRB, consisting of three field grade officers, will convene and determine the highest grade that was satisfactorily served. Because applicants are not entitled to personally appear before the AGDRB, they should attach any relevant documents to their application form.

If the individual served in and retired from the Reserve Component, *Army Regulation 135-180*³ authorizes the Army Reserve Personnel Command to make final grade determinations on the highest grade served *when misconduct is not an issue*. The individual should apply to the Commander, Army Reserve Personnel Command, ATTN: ARPC-PSD-T, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100. The letter should explain the circumstances surrounding his promotion, what grade he retired at, and the highest grade he held. The letter should also include the applicant's full name, social security number, and service number, if applicable. If misconduct was an issue that caused retirement at a lower grade, then the individual's application will be forwarded to the AGDRB or the individual can apply directly to the AGDRB. Colonel Serene and Lieutenant Colonel Conrad.

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1. U.S. DEP'T OF ARMY, REG. 15-80, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES: ARMY GRADE DETERMINATION REVIEW BOARD (28 Oct. 1986).
 2. U.S. Dep't of Defense, DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record Under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552 (Sep. 1997).
 3. U.S. DEP'T OF ARMY, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY RESERVE: QUALIFYING SERVICE FOR RETIRED PAY NONREGULAR SERVICE (1 Aug. 1987).